MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : Is this 25,000 tons the average increase which the Department expects by intensive cultivation or is it the increase over the average of the previous years?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Certainly not. It is the actual increase in 1119 over the production of the previous year?

PRESIDENT : The question is "what is the increase in the annual production of rice in the State in 1119?" The answer is "25,000 tons" Now what is your trouble?

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : My trouble is this. Is this production of 25,000 tons the increase over the actual production of 1118 or is it the increase over the figures fixed as the average for the previous years?

PRESIDENT : I see. You are putting a long question.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : This is the actual increase over the figures of 1118. On account of the measures that I indicated, we have produced roughly about 25,000 tons over and above what was produced in 1118.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : May I know whether the Department is selling manure at higher costs?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The cost has been reduced and brought to the market level and action will be taken against those merchants who profiteer in this business.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE : May I know whether any fee is levied for obtaining licences.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : No. Sir.

Slaughter of Cattle.

120. * MR. E. K. MADHAVAN (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state the name of the officer or officers empowered to give permits for the slaughter of cattle in the municipal and non-municipal areas of Parur taluk?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Mr. T. K. George (Veterinary Inspector.)

Veterinary Hospitals in the State.

121. * MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the number of Veterinary Hospitals in the State ;

(*b*) the rank of Muvattupuzha taluk in the number of cattle ;

(*c*) whether the Government have received petitions requesting for a Veterinary hospital in Muvattupuzha taluk; and

(*d*) what decision has been made by the Government on these petitions?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) 17.

(*b*) Muvattupuzha takes the first rank.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The matter is under consideration. In the meantime an Itinerant Veterinary Inspector has been posted to Muvattupuzha to take necessary steps to control the out-breaks of contagious diseases among cattle.

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MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know how long it is since the matter is under the consideration of the Government?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The whole question of the reorganisation of the Veterinary Department and the establishment of veterinary hospitals is under the active consideration of the Government. The honourable member will remember that Government got down an expert Dr. Millen of the Allahabad Institute. He visited various localities, surveyed the position and has submitted a report.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I know whether any steps are taken to prevent anthrax?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: What are the steps?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Itinerant Veterinary Inspectors have been appointed. They go about and take steps against the spread of the disease by giving protective inoculation.

Importation of cattle from British India.

122 * MR. K. M. PAUL (*Muvattupuzha cum Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether any arrangement has been made with the Madras Government regarding the importation of cattle from British India?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The necessity of allotting a quota of cattle to the State from the Madras Province was pressed before the Combined Cattle Board set up by the Government of India and the Board has recommended that a monthly quota of 200 head of cattle should be allowed to the State.

MR. K. M. PAUL: May I know when this recommendation was made to the joint board.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: In September 1944.

MR. K. M. PAUL: May I know whether these recommendations were accepted?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The recommendation were accepted by the Joint Cattle Board and repeated pressure is being brought to bear upon the Government concerned.

PRESIDENT: We have been fully aware of the difficult cattle situation in the State. We have been attempting to get imports from the Madras Presidency and Mysore. Madras Presidency has difficulties because Mysore will not export to Madras. Therefore a joint board was appointed with Mysore, Travancore and Cochin as members and they have come to the unanimous agreement some months ago that 200 heads of cattle should be supplied per month to this State. Only the cattle have not come.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether any batch has been imported according to the agreement?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: You have just explained Sir, that the whole question is only in the recommendatory stage.

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